



DRUMLINE AUDITIONS

Greetings!

Welcome to the Illini Drumline! Congratulations on taking the first step in becoming a part of our great organization. We pride ourselves on being one of the best college drumlines in the country as part of the first collegiate band program and The Nation's Premier College Band, the Marching Illini. Earning a spot in the drumline and in the Marching Illini is a testament to the hard work you have put in over the course of your musical career.

Belonging to the Illini Drumline is earned. It is earned not just at auditions, but every day on and off the field and throughout the off-season. Belonging to the Illini Drumline is a privilege and a great one.

So what is expected? We can start with the off-season. During the clinics you will quickly learn that the off-season is an important first step to becoming a member. You will improve your playing abilities (rudimentary, technique, muscle memory and endurance) as well as begin to learn and memorize a large number of pieces, both full-band and drumline-specific. You will prepare your body for the coming season – what we do is physically demanding and exhausting at times. Maintaining physical fitness is necessary, as without it, your performance will suffer and the whole line suffers with you.

During the season, you will keep up with new music that is distributed, retain and practice the previously learned material, continue to improve chops, and adapt to the Marching Illini techniques of movement on the field. You will rehearse, perform, and behave at a professional level.

Auditions:

The audition process will be a two part process. The first portion of the audition will consist of an individual performance in which you will play two parts of our cadence series and a short (no longer than 1 minute) prepared excerpt of your choice. *If you are auditioning for bass drum, prepare the drum of your choice for the cadence series and also a short snare solo that you will play on bass. *If you are auditioning for cymbals you will be responsible for the cadence series only. The second portion will be an ensemble evaluation in which we will cover warm-ups in a full group setting. This will give you the opportunity to play in a large drumline and get comfortable with the environment. Be prepared to think quickly as variations and new exercises will test your ability to listen, read and react quickly.

Conclusion:

Thank you for taking the first step to becoming a part of the Illini Drumline. All seriousness aside, this will be one of the most memorable times of your life. The trips are unforgettable – in the past three years, we've traveled to Ireland, Texas, and New York for the Macy's Day Parade. There's plenty to get excited about! Performing with this ensemble is incredible and being with the members that make it up, even more so. Every day is an opportunity for you to play with some extremely talented individuals at the highest level and contribute to the "Best Band In The Land."

Here's to a great season and GO ILLINI!

MARCHING ILLINI

THE NATION'S PREMIER COLLEGE MARCHING BAND

